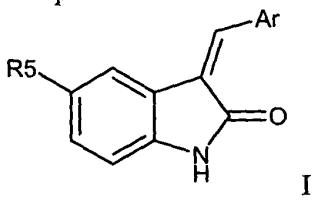
ABSTRACT

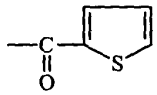
The present invention relates to a compound of formula (I):



I

wherein

R5 is selected from the group consisting of 3-pyridyl, 5-pyrimidinyl, -CONH-(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -NHCO-(C_1-C_4 alkyl), halogen, -SO_2NH_2, -NO_2, -CF_3 or thien-2-ylcarbonyl (



) and -CO_2R where R can be hydrogen or C_1-C_4 alkyl; and

Ar is selected from the group consisting of 5-imidazolyl, 2-pyrrolyl optionally substituted by a C_1-C_4 alkyl radical, 2-furyl or 2-thiazolyl,

in the E or Z geometrical isomeric form or a mixture of the two geometrical isomeric forms.

The invention is also directed to a method of treating primary and secondary tumours in a patient in need thereof comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I. The invention is also directed to a method of using a compound of formula I to treat cancer, inhibit the proliferation of a cell and induce cell apoptosis, comprising contacting a cell with an effective amount of the compound of formula I., The invention is also directed to a method of preparing the compound of formula I.